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We Are...Marshall!

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MARSHALL UNIVERSITY • DECEMBER 10, 2004

Marshall Receives \$2.8 Million Bequest

Marshall University announced this week that it has received one of the largest individual gifts in its 167-year history.

The estate of Bliss Livingston Charles, a former Certified Public Accountant and Attorney at Law in the Huntington area, left Marshall \$2.8 million. Charles, though not a graduate of the university, was a great fan and strong supporter of Marshall. He was 92 years old when he died on June 21, 2003 – one year after he retired.

The gift was announced at the Drinko Library during a ceremony in which a plaque displaying Charles' name was

unveiled. It will be added to the Pathway of Prominence on Marshall's campus. The Pathway, which now has 15 members, honors those who have given \$1 million or more to Marshall.

"This is a remarkable gift," said Glen Kerkian, Senior Vice President for Development at Marshall. "Not only is this a substantial amount, but the nature of the gift will allow the university greater latitude in its funding of worthwhile projects. Clearly, Mr. Charles had great fore-

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Herd to 'Go Bowling' in Fort Worth

Fans heading to Texas to attend the Plains Capital Fort Worth Bowl on Dec. 23 against the University of Cincinnati can purchase tickets through



the Marshall Athletic Department, either online at www.Herdzone.com or by calling the

ticket office at 1-800-The-Herd, or at ext. 4373.

For fans unable to make the trip, proxy tickets are also being offered. In an effort to fill the stands with Marshall Green, individuals or groups can purchase tickets which will be donated on their behalf to military families and charities in the Fort Worth area.

PEIA Rate Hike Denied

The finance board for the insurance agency covering the state's teacher and public employees has rejected a plan to raise premiums, according to a story last week by the Associated Press.

The plan, opposed by a 3-2 margin of the Public Employees Insurance Agency Finance Board, would have raised employee premiums by 7 percent next July 1, and another 25 percent on July 1, 2006.

A seven percent hike would mean an increase of about \$112 annually for a worker with family coverage.

PEIA employee representatives have argued that teachers and public employees have not had pay raises since 2002 and that retirees' pensions do not include cost of living allowances.

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Terry Blake is Employee of the Month

Terry Blake, Program Assistant I in Conference and Facilities, has been named the Marshall University Employee of the Month for October, according to Jim Stephens, chair of the Employee of the Month Committee.

Employed at Marshall for almost five years, he was nominated by Martha Woodward.

In her nomination Woodward wrote, "There is no above and beyond the call of duty for Terry because he sees it all as part of his duty. No job is too demanding for him. He takes the same care in setting up a room for 300 people as in a small gathering of 10. Whatever the case you know conditions will be perfect."

(continued on page 2)



Terry Blake (right) reads the Employee of the Month plaque he just received from Dr. H. Keith Spears, Vice President for Communications and Marketing.



Members of the Marshall community and friends of the late Bliss L. Charles gathered Dec. 7 to recognize Charles' bequest to Marshall University.

Bequest from Page 1

sight as to the impact of Marshall University on this region."

A. Michael Perry, Chairman of Marshall's Board of Governors and longtime friend of Charles, praised him as "a true community person."

"Even though Bliss was not a graduate of Marshall, he realized the importance of the university, not only in the education of students, but in its economic and cultural benefits for the community," Perry said.

Charles was born Oct. 7, 1910, in West Union (Adams County), Ohio, a son of Olen G. and Nellie Miller Charles. He graduated from Huntington High School in 1928, then briefly attended Marshall College. He enrolled at the University of Illinois, from where he graduated in 1932. Charles also was a 1953 graduate of the Ohio State University College of Law. He was admitted to the West Virginia Bar Association in 1954.

During World War II, Charles served as Chief Accountant at the T & T Ammunition Plant located in Point Pleasant, W.Va.

An avid golfer, he was a member of Guyan Golf and Country Club. He also was a member of the B.P.O. Elks 313 and was a Kentucky Colonel.

Longtime close friend Kyle Meabon said she and

Charles attended many community functions, enjoyed Charles' country retreat and loved to travel.

"He was a conservative and hard-working man," Meabon said. "Mr. Charles would be proud that his wishes have been carried out and his contribution will be of great benefit and appreciated by Marshall University."

Perry and Menis Ketchum, also a member of the Board of Governors, initiated the university's recognition of Charles.



Bliss L. Charles

We Are...Marshall!

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The next regular issue of *We Are...Marshall!* will carry an issue date of Jan. 7, 2005. Deadline is Jan. 3. Articles or other materials for consideration should be sent to Pat Dickson, editor, at the South Charleston campus or by e-mail to pdickson@marshall.edu.



Terry Blake from Page 1

And, she adds, "Not only do you find arrangements exactly to your specifications when you arrive—because he has called to check with you ahead—but he comes at the beginning of the event to see if you need anything. Then he comes back later to make sure you're still okay. He's tireless. In addition to his tremendous efficiency and sense of responsibility, Terry is an all around great guy. He displays a good sense of humor and an even disposition even in times of stress."

He was presented with a plaque, a balloon bouquet, and a check for \$100 by Dr. H. Keith Spears, Vice President for Communications and Marketing.

Highlights from the Angels' Retirement Party

December 6, 2004



(A) Receiving line for the Angels in the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center. (B) Dan and Patricia Angel listen to the tributes and presentations during the evening's program. (C) Among the visitors bringing good wishes was former Gov. Cecil Underwood. (D) Rhonda Mullins of University Communications (right) shows the Angels the title page of the memory book to be composed of pictures taken and personal notes written at the reception. (E) James Morris-Smith (right) shows the Angels their lifetime passes good for athletic and cultural events at Marshall University. (F) Rhonda Mullins (left) and Dave Wellman, Marshall Director of Communications (right) help the Angels unveil the oversize versions of trading cards prepared for the event. (G) Among the gifts the Angels received was a set of lead crystal glasses engraved with representations of high points of the Angel era at Marshall, such as construction of the Robert C. Byrd Biotechnology Science Center.



Note of Thanks

Patricia and I want to express our heartfelt gratitude to all who have participated in this and all the other retirement celebrations. As I have said many times, we love Marshall University and we always will.

Sincerely,
Dan Angel

New Fundraisers Join Marshall and Foundation Team

Mandilyn (Mandy) J. Hart has joined the Marshall University Foundation, Inc., and Rebecca McPhail Samples



Mandy Hart

has joined the MU Office of Development, according to an announcement last week by Glen Kerkian, senior vice president for development and executive director of the Marshall University Foundation.

Hart is the new Director of Planned Giving. She is responsible for overseeing the development and administration of planned gifts for the university.

Samples is the new Director of the Annual Fund. She is responsible for operations pertaining to the university's annual fund, including the

Phon-a-thon, direct mail and matching gifts programs, stewardship for donors and identification of potential donors.

"I am so pleased with the caliber of professionals we have been able to attract to Marshall, Kerkian said.

"Rebecca and Mandy are proven advancement leaders who have returned to West Virginia for the quality of life here. The effect of their presence on our development team will be immediate."

Hart has attained the professional designation of certified Trust and Financial Advisor from the Institute of Certified Bankers. She is a graduate of Cannon Trust School and its Advanced Trust School. She has a degree in accounting from the University of Kentucky.

Hart is president-elect for the KYOWVA Planned Giving Council and past officer and current member of the Greater Huntington Estate Planning Council. In addition, she is the president of the board of directors for the TEAM

for West Virginia, an organization whose mission is the prevention of child abuse.

She resides in Ashland, Ky., with her husband, Nevada, who is president of Hart 2 Heart Productions, a music recording studio.

Samples previously was director of development at the



Rebecca Samples

University of Charleston, where she planned and implemented a \$1.5 million annual fund campaign, reaching 133 percent of the university's goal. Prior to that, she was development and grant research manager and interim director of development for the YMCA of Greater Cleveland.

She is a 1996 graduate of West Virginia University Institute of Technology with a bachelor's degree in history and government.

Celebrity Series Hosts Dr. Ronald Blanck

Dr. Ronald R. Blanck, president of the University of North Texas Health Science Center in Fort Worth, Texas, was the guest speaker on Dec. 7 as Celebrity Series II continued at Marshall.

The Celebrity Series has featured higher education experts from around the country. Dr. Don Brown, former Commissioner of Higher Education in Texas, spoke in November. The sessions are free to the public.

Blanck, a retired Lieutenant General in the U.S. Army, made his presentation, "Technology and the Future of Healthcare" in the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center.

As president of the North Texas Health Science Center, Blanck oversees a growing academic health center that includes the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and School of Public Health.

A graduate of the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, Blanck is board certified in internal medicine. Blanck's military honors include Distinguished Service Medals, the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star and Meritorious Service and Army Commendation Medals.

PEIA Rates from Page 1

Under current law, the PEIA board must approve next year's premium's rates this month, without knowing how the Legislature will address the pay raise issue, according to Perry Bryant, who represents education employees.

Lawmakers could delay a state law that requires employees to pay 20 percent of their insurance costs by 2007. Currently they pay 18 per percent, Jason Haught, PEIA's chief financial officer said.

Board member Denise White noted that the finance board must act based on current law. "We're stuck with the 18-20 right now. The Legislature has not changed that," she said. "I know seven percent is a lot and I fully understand the situation public employees are in."

Another Board member, Jim Schneider, said that the total out-of-pocket costs to PEIA policyholders, including premiums, co-pays and deductibles, is more than 20 percent of total health coverage costs.

The Board is to meet again on Wednesday, Dec. 15 to develop a 2005-2006 plan.

The only other option at this time includes a 10 percent employee premium increase on July 1, followed by a 21 percent increase on July 1, 2006.

Note of Thanks

Because of an editor's error, this is a corrected version of a previously published note of thanks:

On November 3, 2004, I lost my best friend, my dad, Robert South. My deepest appreciation to those who remembered me with phone calls, cards, flowers, food and contributions to Hospice House.

Lu Ann South